

### REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 18, 2006. Claims 4 and 9 are presented for examination, both of which are in independent form. Claims 4 and 9 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. No change in scope is either intended or believed effected by at least these latter changes. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action objected to Claims 4 and 9 because of the following informalities: Claim 4, line 9 and Claim 9, line 8, "image information" should be -- the image information--. Applicant has reviewed and amended the claims to overcome the objection and respectfully requests withdrawal of same.

Claims 4 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised in paragraphs 4-6 of the Office Action. It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,170,428 (Watanabe) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,310,669 (Kawasaki).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 4 and 9 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 4 is directed to a communication apparatus adapted to perform ring-type multiple-address transmission. The apparatus includes: (1) a memory, arranged to store image data; (2) a reception unit, arranged to receive image data and store the received image data to the memory; (3) a transmission unit, arranged to the transmit image data and received image data stored in the memory; (4) an identification unit, arranged to identify whether or not the received image data is data assigned to be subjected to ring-type multiple-address transfer; and (5) a processor arranged to cause the transmission of the image data with image sender information added thereto as being used as a transmitter when the start of ring-type multiple-address transfer is selected, or the transmission of the received image without image sender information added thereto as being used as a repeater station when the transfer of ring-type multiple-address transfer is selected.

Among other notable features of Claim 4 is a processor arranged to cause the transmission of the image data with image sender information added thereto as being used as a transmitter when the start of ring-type multiple-address transfer is selected, or the transmission of the received image without image sender information added thereto as being used as a repeater station when the transfer of ring-type multiple-address transfer is selected.

Watanabe relates to a data communication apparatus. Fig. 1 is a diagram for explaining the repeating multiple-address transmission of Watanabe. In Fig. 1, reference numeral 1 denotes a facsimile apparatus as a repeater station for performing the repeating multiple-address transmission; 2 is a facsimile apparatus for requesting the repeating multiple-address transmission; 3 is a facsimile apparatus for receiving the repeating data from the facsimile apparatus 1; 4 is a data communication network which is used for only data

communication or for the communication of digital data; and 5 is a telephone network which is used for the communication of voice and data.

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing a facsimile apparatus. Reference numeral 6 denotes a CPU to control the whole apparatus; 7 is an operation unit to input a telephone number and the like; 8 is a read unit to read an original document; 9 is a record unit; 10 is an image memory to store image data upon transmission and reception; 11 is a selection signal transmission unit to the network and a transmission/reception unit of a procedure signal and an image signal; 12 is a detection circuit of a facsimile call signal which is incoming from the data communication network; 13 is a detection circuit of a call signal which is incoming from the telephone network; 14 is a hook detection circuit to detect the state (ON or OFF) of the receiver of a telephone set which is connected to the facsimile apparatus; 15 is a CML relay to switch between the transmission/reception unit 11 and a main telephone set 16 or among the detection circuits 12 to 14; 16 is the main telephone set; 17 is a circuit; 18 is a ROM in which a control program is stored; 19 is a RAM in which various kinds of telephone numbers of a partner for permitting the repeating multiple-address transmission, repeating multiple-address reception station, and the like are stored; and 20 is a battery to back up the content of the RAM 19.

Applicant submits that nothing has been found in Watanabe that would teach or suggest “a processor arranged to cause the transmission of the image data with image sender information added thereto as being used as a transmitter when the start of ring-type multiple-address transfer is selected, or the transmission of the received image without image sender information added thereto as being used as a repeater station when the transfer of ring-type multiple-address transfer is selected,” as recited in Claim 4.

A review of the other art of record, including Kawasaki, has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 4.

Independent Claim 9 is a method claim corresponding to apparatus Claim 4, and are believed to be patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 4.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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